



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

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CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving

By Tony Tucker, *President/CEO*

Some temptations are hard to resist. For me, it can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.



So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I’d encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Mitchell EMC, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can’t wait.



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com



Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

Mitchell EMC Members Help Send Local Students to College through Operation RoundUP Scholarships

Students from across Mitchell EMC's 14-county service area received scholarships for college thanks to Operation RoundUP. Applicants were evaluated by the Community Foundation of South Georgia. Scholarships are awarded based on "All-Around Student Performance" including academic performance, community service, volunteerism, and extracurricular activities. Financial need is also considered. The foundation also reviewed recommendations from teachers and other adults involved in the students' lives.



Mitchell EMC members who enroll in Operation RoundUP provide scholarships to deserving students. Participating members allow us to round their electric bills up to the nearest whole dollar amount. Though it may not seem like much, those funds added together make a huge positive difference in our local community. A maximum of ten (10) renewable scholarships are awarded on an annual basis. Scholarships will be \$2,500 per semester, twice a year, for up to four years to assist in attaining an undergraduate degree from a post-secondary institution in the United States. Graduating children of Mitchell EMC employees receive a scholarship of \$500.

The Walter Harrison Scholarship, created in 1985 by the board of directors of the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, is awarded to students who excel in the areas of GPA, SAT scores, academic ability, scholastic honors, and demonstrate a financial need. The award pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electrification movement and a leader at the local, state, and national level in the electric cooperative program.

To be eligible for consideration, students must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete the two-page Walter Harrison application, and write a two-page autobiographical sketch with references to future plans and goals. Students that live in a primary residence serviced by Mitchell EMC electricity are eligible.

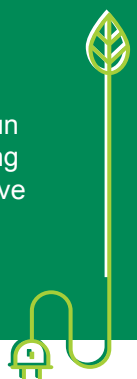
2022 Operation RoundUP Scholarship Recipients include: Thomas Boyer, Baconton Community Charter School; Savannah Hadley, Westwood Schools; Jayden Mango, Pelham High School; Trace Lamberth, Westwood Schools; Gracie Huston, Baconton Community Charter School; Kaylie Willis, Lee County High School; Jacob Workman, Westwood Schools; Morgan Shiver, Baconton Community Charter School; Jackson Jenkins, Terrell Academy and Jessie Baer, Homeschool.

Davis Greene, Colquitt County High School and Katie Wade, Southern Regional Technical College each received a \$500 employee scholarship.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...



Attention Farmers Just a reminder...

Time Of Use (TOU) rates for irrigation systems begins on June 1. The TOU kWh cost is based on the time of day in which it is used. The rate will distinguish between ON-PEAK and OFF-PEAK usage. **TOU rates apply from June 1 through September 30.* If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 229-336-5221 or 1-800-479-6034.



Final Month to Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits

Members can review a list of unclaimed capital credits due to be escheated on September 16, 2022 online or in one of our district offices. The last possible date to claim these funds is on September 16, 2022. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A 44-12-236. Our headquarters office located in Camilla and district offices located in Albany and Sylvester have hard copy list available for review. Our offices are open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members can also access this list at <https://mitchellemc.com/about-us/capital-credits>.



Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D



WATT'S COOKING



Cheese Dip

Ingredients:

- 1 pound hamburger meat
- 1 package of taco seasoning
- ½ block of Velveeta Cheese
- 1 cup of chunky salsa

Instructions:

Brown hamburger meat and drain. Mix taco seasoning as directed on the package. Melt Velveeta cheese. Mix cheese, hamburger meat, salsa, and taco seasoning. Serve with tortilla chips.

Submitted by:

Patricia Norton, Mitchell County

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a

\$25 credit

on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to: Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.